

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02534 031511Z
ACTION NEA-10

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-----031841Z 110733 /53

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2534

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, JO
SUBJECT: BUSINESSMEN FOLLOW UP ON NELSON ROCKEFELLER VISIT

REF: STATE 087934

1. ARTHUR TAYLOR AND JOHN FOSTER BRIEFED US ON VISIT TO JORDAN. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN TOOK PERSONAL INTEREST IN VISIT, GIVING THEM PERSONAL BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT PLANS ESPECIALLY IN JORDAN VALLEY AND TAKING THEM ON HELICOPTER TOUR OF JORDAN VALLEY. THEY ALSO MET WITH GOJ OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY MATTERS AND WITH ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

2. TAYLOR AND FOSTER TOLD US THEY GAINED FROM THIS VISIT TO JORDAN STRONG IMPRESSION OF DYNAMIC ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND VITALITY OF JORDANIANS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THEY ARE STRUCK BY LARGE AMOUNT OF FOREIGN FUNDS FLOWING INTO COUNTRY, AND THEIR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT MONEY COMING IN' LARGELY BECAUSE OF IMPRESSIVE HUMAN RESOURCES IN JORDAN. THEIR FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF JORDAN WERE HEIGHTENED BY COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS MADE IN THEIR
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PREVIOUS STOPS IN MIDDLE EAST. TAYLOR REMARKED IN THIS REGARD THAT JORDAN'S PLANNERS ARE AT SAME TIME BUILDERS AND DOERS; PLANNING IS PURSUED THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN LANGUISHING AS ACADEMIC EXERCISE. THEIR SESSIONS WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND VISITS TO THREE FACTORIES CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THEIR IMPRESSION. AS POSSIBILITIES FOR EQUITY INVESTMENT, FOSTER AND

TAYLOR LOOKED AT JORDAN'S PLANS TO EXTRACT POTASH FROM DEAD SEA BRINES AND TO PRODUCE FERTILIZER FROM LOCAELOCAL PHOSPHATE ROCK. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITIES OF FOOD PROCESSING, OVERSEAS MARKETING OF JORDANIAN FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDING SUGGESTED NEW CROP OF SOYBEANS, AND IN TOURIST INDUSTRY. TAYLOR AND FOSTER MENTIONED INTENTION TO RETURN TO JORDAN FOR FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS, PERHAPS IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.
SUDDARTH

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